

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9071

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PASS: OES - AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN

FOLLOWING TEL BOMBAY 2721 DTD 19 OCT 76 RCVD NEW DELHI

BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 2721

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SPOP, IN

SUBJ: REPORTS OF FAMILY PLANNING PROBLEMS

REF: BOMBAY 2684

1. A USUALLY RELIABLE POLICE SOURCE HADTOLD US THAT BETWEEN OCTOBER 8 AND 12, GOI HOME SECRETARY KHOORANA DISCUSSED THE ENFORCEMENT IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMPLUSORY STERILIZATION BILL WITH SENIOR MAHARASHTRA POLICE AND OTHER OFFICIALS. REPORTEDLY, HE WAS TOLD THAT MAHARASHTRA'S MUSLIM COMMUNITY COULD REACT AGAINST EFFORTS TO ENFORCE A COMPULSORY STERILIZATION ACT. THE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE, TOLD KHOORANA THAT THEY EXPECT COMMUNAL TROUBLE IN SUCH MAJOR MUSLIM POCKETS AS AURAGABAD, BHIVANDI, AND MALEGAON.

3. POLICE SOURCES HAVE ALSO TOLD US THAT SOME MUSLIM RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE HAVE ORGANIZED SPECIAL MEETINGS IN THE MOSQUES TO EMPHASIZE THEIR OPPOSITION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS TO COMPULSORY STERILIZATION. FUTHER, THEY HAVE DIRECTED APPEALS TO SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL MUSLIM

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ORGANIZATIONS, AND TO THE KING OF SAUDI ARABIA, TO INTERCEDE

WITH THE GOI TO EXCLUDE MUSLIMS FROM ANY COMPULSORY
STERILIZATION ACT.

4. LOCAL PRESS SOURCES HAVE TOLD US THAT IN PERHAPS HALF OF
DOZEN VILLAGES NEAR AURAGABAD RECENTLY FORCED LANDLESS
LABORERS INTO CAMPS FOR FORCED STERILIZATION.

5. COMMENT: THAT KHOORANA WOULD DISCUSS THE MUSLIM
COMMUNITY REACTION WITH THE LOCAL POLICE IS NOT SURPRISING.
THE FAMILY PLANNERS ARE AWARE OF POTENTIAL RESISTANCE WITHIN
THE GROUP AND DO EXPECT SOME ISOLATED TROUBLE, WHICH THEY
BELIEVE WILL BE CONTAINABLE. (SEE BOMBAY A-52).

6. THE REPORTED USE OF COERCION IN THE REMOTE AREAS COULD WELL
BE ISOLATED CASES OF OVERZEALOUS OFFICIALS ANXIOUS TO MEET THE
STATES' QUOTA UNDER THE CURRENT VOLUNTARY CAMPAIGN. STILL, THE
FACT THAT THESE OFFICIALS FELT THE NEED FOR COERCION INDICATES THAT
THE EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN HAS NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE AS THE
FAMILY PLANNERS BELIEVE, AT LEAST IN THE RURAL AREAS, AND THAT
GREATER EDUCATION INPUTS ARE REQUIRED.
COURTNEY

UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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